VALUE OF INOCULATION AS A PLAGUE PREVENTIVE MEASURE.

The following is an account of the progress of inoculation at Tarikere in the Kadur District during the recent outbreak of plague in that town, and is published for the information of the public, as throwing light on the value of the measure in plague prevention.

The Hospital Assistant of Tarikere Dispensary in his report, dated the 29th October 1908, reported as follows: "It may be interesting to note that in three families where all the family members with the exception of one or two were inoculated, 3 such unprotected people, one in each family have caught infection and died." As the occurrences could hardly have been mere coincidences, it was considered of sufficient importance to have the facts investigated on the spot by the District Medical and Sanitary Officer and the following is the history of the cases:—

Family 1.—A tailor family living in an infected part of the town, consisted of 6 members (2 men, 1 woman and 3 children). Of these, the 2 men and a boy were inoculated on the 15th September. One of the uninoculated children, a girl aged 11 years developed plague with a bubo in the right groin on the 2nd October and died on the 4th idem.

Family 2.—A Muhamadan family, consisted of 11 members (5 men, 3 women and 3 children). They were living in an infected part of the town. On the 4th October, 4 out of the 6 men and one of the children, a boy aged 9 years were inoculated, leaving the 3 women, 1 male adult and 2 children unprotected. Eight or ten days later, one of the women was attacked with plague and the family in a body left the town and encamped two miles away, where the women died. A few days afterwards the adult male *that had not been inoculated* developed plague and died.

Family 3.—A shepherd family consisted of 6 members (3 men, 1 woman and 2 children). The whole family with the exception of 1 adult male got inoculated on the 15th August. They were living in the town at the time of inoculation but subsequently removed themselves to camp outside, on account of plague cases occurring in the neighbourhood. The man that had not been inoculated caught plague and died (about 2 months after the date of inoculation of the family), the source of infection being his house in the town whither he used to go for odds and ends.

The course of the disease among the inoculated as compared with the uninoculated is shown under:

Population of the town

Census of 1901 10,164

	Number	Attack	Deaths	Percentage of attacks to total inoculated or uninoculated
Number inoculated ...	609	3	2	0·5
Number uninoculated ...	*9,555	128	91	1·3

* The actual number of people remaining in the town at the time must have been much less as many had, as is very probable, left for neighbouring villages and towns on account of plague. Hence the proportion of the attacks among the uninoculated would really be higher.

The above facts seem to offer a distinct proof that inoculation is of great value in plague prevention.

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